

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Response to Congressional Criticism  
(The following is a suggested line of approach on  
a prepared statement for the Senate Armed Services  
Committee)

1. The unknown and the half-known build fear out of all proportion to the facts. It is hard for us who live so close to the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency to keep in mind how little is known about the agency and its activities even within the Government family. Consequently, when we hear public criticism that appears unjust or unwarranted, we have to make an effort to put ourselves in the critic's place to understand his concern. Unfortunately, we are many times not in a position to give our critics the facts and must suffer with no comment. I do not mean that the full facts would always put us in the right as we have made and will continue to make mistakes if we do our job properly and take the risks which are necessarily involved, but disclosure would help to put the acts criticized in perspective and accept blame only insofar as it may be justified.

2. Behind most of the criticism is a general, not-well-defined uneasiness that CIA is a law unto itself, operating in subterranean areas without any coordination or control. Nothing could be further from the truth. Every action by the Agency or its employees must be based on some specific directive from the National Security Council. All programs in the propaganda field are subject to review and

coordination by the Operations Coordinating Board established by the President under the National Security Council. All activities in the intelligence field are considered by the Intelligence Advisory Committee established by the National Security Council and composed of the heads of all Government intelligence agencies, including representatives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Atomic Energy Commission. Each clandestine operation must be coordinated as to <sup>policy</sup> ~~political~~ implications with the Department of State, the Department of Defense, or both, and such other agencies as may have an immediate interest in the activity. The budgeting aspects of all our activities are closely reviewed by the Bureau of the Budget. Almost all departmental expenditures are audited by the General Accounting Office. These and other audited expenditures constitute approximately 50 per cent (?) of our total annual budget. On the foreign clandestine operations there is a careful internal system of review prior to approval for consideration of all aspects of any projects, and a careful follow up is provided by an internal system of accounting and audit with an inspection and review procedure answerable to the Inspector General and to my Office.

3. On the legislative side, we prepare the detailed justification of our request for funds which is submitted to members of the Appropriations Committees of the House and the Senate. We also conduct liaison from time to time on special problems with other appropriate committees and members of the Congress. I shall touch again on this relationship later on. [With this background I will discuss some concrete incidents.] (There should follow the presentation of certain failures and mistakes and then certain outstanding successes.)

4. I believe I have indicated that we are well aware of the risks we have to take in order to perform the particular duties imposed upon us by the Congress and the National Security Council. I have attempted to show how we exercise every care to make sure our activities are consistent with U. S. policy and to take care that our operations are conducted as economically and efficiently as is possible under the circumstances. I have referred to our relationships with the Congress and feel that in the past we have not had sufficient machinery for keeping the Congress adequately informed so that our activities, including our mistakes and successes, are properly understood. Since we are dealing not only with most sensitive matters in the field of foreign relations and intelligence, but also with the lives of individuals performing most hazardous missions, security is a constant concern but must not be overstressed to the detriment of the proper functioning of the Agency in the American system of Government. I am, therefore, anxious to have a permanent arrangement by which the Congress can be kept appropriately informed under adequate security safeguards on a continuing basis.

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General Counsel